DC
THE TRIALS OF SHAZAM!
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OF 12
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PASS THE POWER!
JUDD WINICK
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He is FREDERICK CHRISTOPHER FREEMAN.
He was just a BOY.
Then FATE dealt him a MIGHTY blow.
It robbed him of a LOVED ONE and left him PERMANENTLY DAMAGED.
But the CONSCIENCE of one who possessed GREAT POWER would NOT let it rest.
He who had been GIVEN great power would now GIVE great power.
And CAPTAIN MARVEL anointed young Freddy Freeman to join his "FAMILY."
The MARVEL family.
He became CAPTAIN MARVEL Jr.
And ALL he need do to summon his GREAT GIFTS was to speak the NAME of his MENTOR.

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But something has gone wrong.
NEW YORK CITY.
THIS is FREDDY FREEMAN.
I'M SORRY THAT YOU DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA--
"GOOD IDEA"? FREDDY-- YOU CAN'T JUST WITHDRAW FROM COLLEGE!
ACTUALLY, I CAN. AND, Y'KNOW, I DID.

THE TRIALS OF SHAZAM PART TWO

GROUNDED

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FREDDY! YOU'RE ONLY TEN CREDITS AWAY FROM GRADUATING, WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!
I KNOW, SHAREENA, BUT LATELY THINGS HAVE BEEN... COMPLICATED.
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT, BUT YOU NEVER TELL ME WHY!
IF WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS WORK AT ALL, WE CAN START WITH YOU TELLING ME HOW YOUR LIFE HAS BECOME SO COMPLICATED!
BECAUSE I LOST ALL OF MY POWERS.
I...
BECAUSE I CAN'T FIND CAPTAIN MARVEL.
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S HARD FOR ME TO--
BECAUSE I'M JUST A REGULAR PERSON AGAIN.
OOF!
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SCRATCH THAT.
I'M JUST A CRIPPLE. I'M NOT AS STRONG AS A "REGULAR PERSON."
FREDDY? ARE YOU THERE? FREDDY?
SORRY. I...I FELL DOWN... A GUY JUST... I FELL DOWN.
I'M SORRY. I AM.
CAN WE JUST TALK ABOUT THIS?
I CAN BE AT THE CAFÉ IN TEN MINUTES. IT'S ACROSS FROM THE CAMPUS.

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I'M... I'M NOT ON CAMPUS.
FREDDY... ARE YOU AT THE HOSPITAL AGAIN?
EMERGENCY
I... I GUESS SO...
MEDICAL TREATMENT ROOM
X-RAY DEPARTMENT
I KNOW SHE'S YOUR FRIEND, I KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT HER...
...BUT SHE'S NOT GETTING ANY BETTER, AND SHE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO KEEP OBSESSING OVER--
I GOTTA GO.
FREDDY!
I NEED TO BE HERE, SHAREENA...

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MARY NEEDS ME.
Her name is MARY BATSON. And until recently, she was ALSO called MARY MARVEL.
But three miles over the shoreline of PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO--
--as Mary Marvel grappled with a demonic fire harpy, her powers DISAPPEARED.
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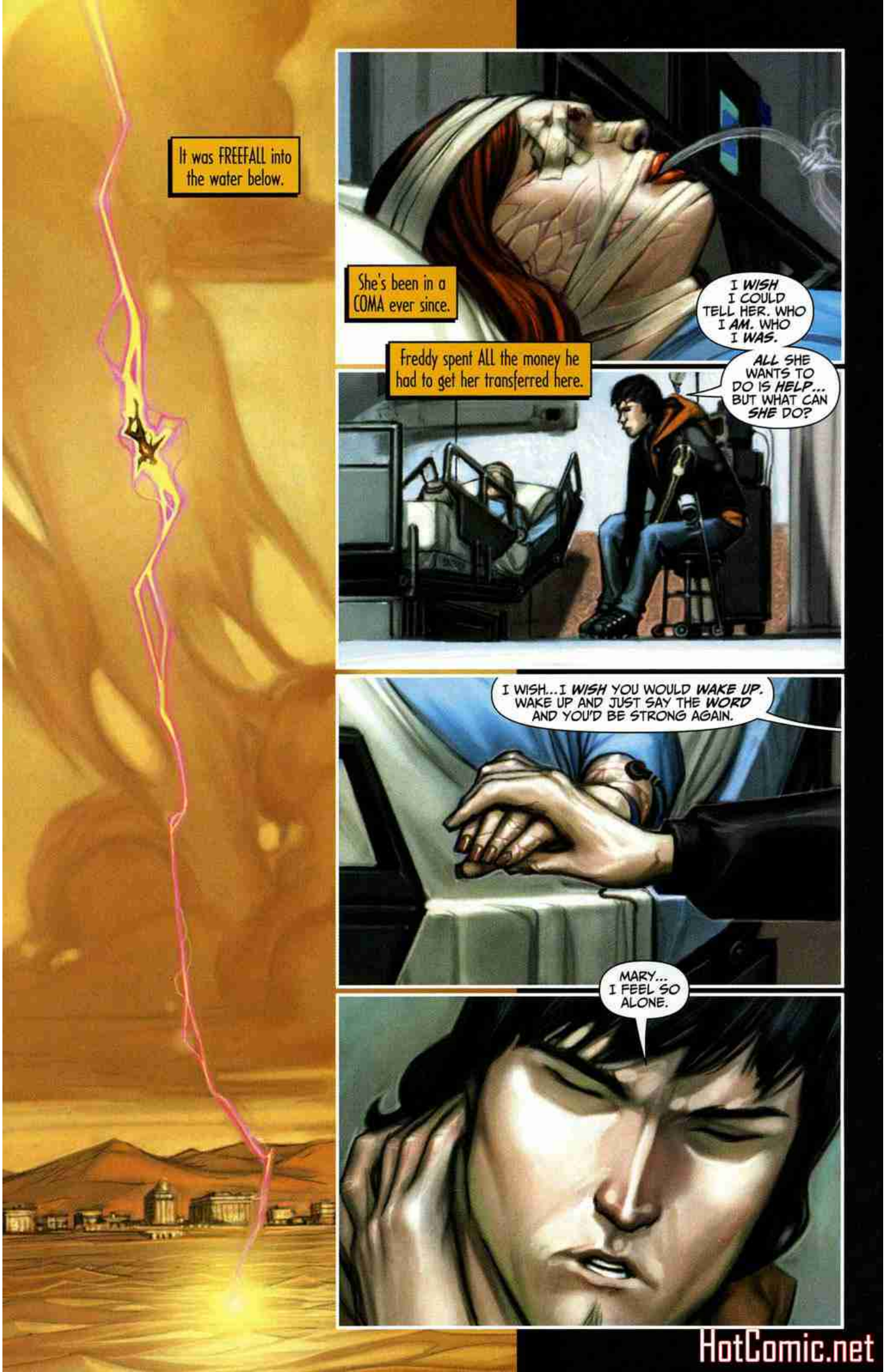
It was FREEFALL into the water below.
She's been in a COMA ever since.
I WISH I COULD TELL HER. WHO I AM. WHO I WAS.
Freddy spent ALL the money he had to get her transferred here.
ALL SHE WANTS TO DO IS HELP... BUT WHAT CAN SHE DO?
I WISH...I WISH YOU WOULD WAKE UP. WAKE UP AND JUST SAY THE WORD AND YOU'D BE STRONG AGAIN.
MARY... I FEEL SO ALONE.

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I WISH I COULD FIND HIM.
Y'KNOW, EVERY DAY IT'S GETTING WORSE OUT THERE.
"ALL OVER THE WORLD THERE'VE BEEN THESE UNBELIEVABLE OCCURRENCES.
"REALLY WEIRD STUFF. EVEN FOR US.
"AND IT'S ALL MAGIC. MAGIC GONE MAD."
AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
I SAY IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN. I SAY "CAPTAIN MARVEL." I SCREAM "CAPTAIN MARVEL!"
AND I WAIT FOR THE LIGHTNING TO RAIN DOWN ON ME.
I WAIT TO FEEL ALL THAT STRENGTH. THAT POWER.
BUT IT'S GONE.
"I THOUGHT CAP HAD IT UNDER CONTROL, I MEAN, AFTER THE WIZARD DIED.
"I THOUGHT WE WOULD BE THE ONES TO CARRY ON."
BUT... IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT GOING TO FULLY RECOVER FROM LOSING HIM... FROM LOSING SHAZAM.
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YES... IN A FASHION.
"IN A FASHION"?
YES. WE NEED TO TALK.
THINGS HAVE... CHANGED.
FREDDY, WHEN THE WIZARD SHAZAM WAS DESTROYED...
...THE POWER AND THE MAGIC OF THIS REALM WAS THROWN INTO FLUX.
YEAH. I KNOW THAT, CAP. IT'S LIKE H.P. LOVECRAFT ON STEROIDS OUT THERE...
...BUT IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN--
"LISTEN TO ME, FREDDY. HIS ABSENCE HAS CREATED A VACUUM.
"ALL THE POWER HE CONTROLLED AND SO MUCH OF THE DARK FORCES HE KEPT AT BAY, DISCHARGED."
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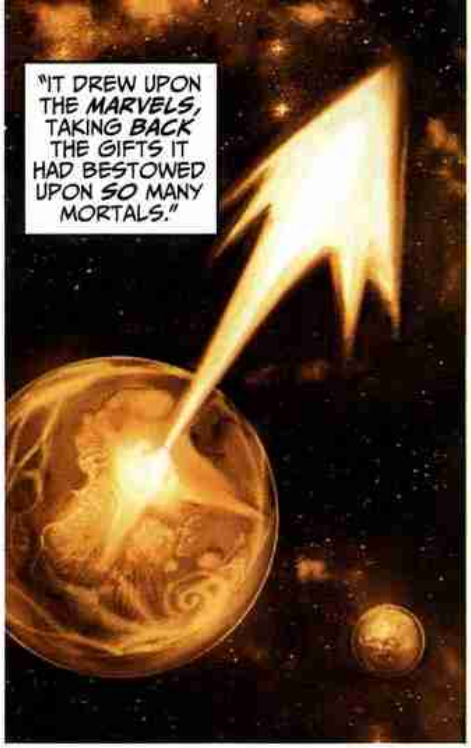

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BUT... BILLY... YOU ARE STILL BILLY IN THERE, RIGHT?
YES.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
I HAD TO GROW UP.
I AM EVERYTHING THAT CAPTAIN MARVEL WAS, AND I AM EVERYTHING THAT SHAZAM WAS INFUSED WITH.
THE BOOK THAT IS MAGIC HAS BEEN REWRITTEN, AND WE NEED TO ADAPT ALONG WITH THIS EVOLUTION.
WE ARE AT A VERY DARK CROSSROADS...
AND THE POWER OF SHAZAM STILL NEEDS AN ACOLYTE--
--BUT NOW ONE WHO WILL MAINTAIN THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE WORLD OF MAGIC AND THE WORLD OF HUMANITY.
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FATE HAS CHOSEN YOU. YOU ARE NEXT IN THE SUCCESSION OF POWER.
HERCULES ATLAS ZEUS ACHILLES MERCURY
BUT YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN THESE GIFTS. THEY MUST BE EARNED.
YOU WILL VISIT WITH EACH OF THE GODS OF MAGIC WHO ARE SIGNIFIED IN THE NAME OF SHAZAM.
"AND YOU WILL BE TESTED. IF YOU SUCCEED, YOU WILL BE AWARDED THEIR GIFTS OF POWER."
BUT IF YOU FAIL, THE POWER OF SHAZAM WILL BE LOST TO US.
IT WILL BE PASSED ON TO ANOTHER MAGICAL LINEAGE.
ONE WHOSE HEARTS ARE NOT AS INCULPABLE AS OUR OWN.
SO... I WON'T BE CAPTAIN MARVEL JR AGAIN?
NO. IF YOU TRIUMPH OVER THESE OBSTACLES, YOU WILL BE THE CHAMPION OF OUR FATE.

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"NOW...YOU MUST MEET YOUR GUIDE."
WHAT A DUMP.
HOW CAN THE DUDE WHO'S GOING TO GAIN ME AN AUDIENCE WITH THE GODS OF MAGIC LIVE IN A TOILET LIKE THIS?
HEY, ARE YOU GOING UP TO SEE A, um, WHAT'S THIS GUY'S NAME, SOMETHING WITH A "Z" HERE...
ZAREB BABAK?
YEAH. THAT'S THE GUY! I'M LATE AS HELL, AND THIS DOESN'T NEED A SIGNATURE. IF YOU COULD--
I'LL TAKE IT UP. MY GRANDFATHER ALWAYS USED TO SAY...

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"...NEVER SHOW UP EMPTY-HANDED."
The home of ZAREB BABAK.
FOR STARTERS, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I DON'T WANT THIS GIG.
I WAS PERFECTLY HAPPY AT MY OLD JOB, UNTIL LONG BEARD KICKS AND EVERYONE'S GOTTA PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING BEFORE?
MAN, I WAS A LEVEL TWELVE NECROMANCER WITH CONJURING ABILITIES IN THE TELBIAN REALM OF FIRE.
AND THAT WAS GOOD?
BETTER THAN PLAYING WET NURSE TO A MORTAL TRYING TO EARN HIS STRIPES. NO OFFENSE.
WHATEVER...SO I'M SUPPOSED TO BE TESTED BY THE GODS. SO, DO WE GO TO MOUNT OLYMPUS?
MOUNT OLYMPUS? BROTHER, YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?

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THE GODS OF OLYMPUS ARE TERRA-BASED AND HOLD DOMINION OVER AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT REALM OF POWER.
AND Y'KNOW, HANG WITH ALL THEM AMAZON CHICKS.
YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE DEALING WITH THE LORDS OF MAGIC.
THE ONLY THING THEY HAVE IN COMMON WITH THOSE CATS ARE THEIR "TITLES."
THE GREAT GOD ZEUS ISN'T SO MUCH THE BIG FELLA'S NAME AS IT IS HIS STATION...
SO THERE'S MORE THAN ONE ZEUS, SOLOMON, ACHILLES, MERCURY, ALL OF THEM...
YEAH. THERE'S MILLIONS OF THEM THAT BEAR THE "NAME." YOU ONLY HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SIX.
AND WHAT DID YOU BRING ME?
OH, SORRY, A DELIVERY GUY ASKED ME TO BRING THIS--
YOU DIDN'T TELL HIM MY NAME, DID YOU?
YEAH. HE SAID YOU DIDN'T NEED TO SIGN--
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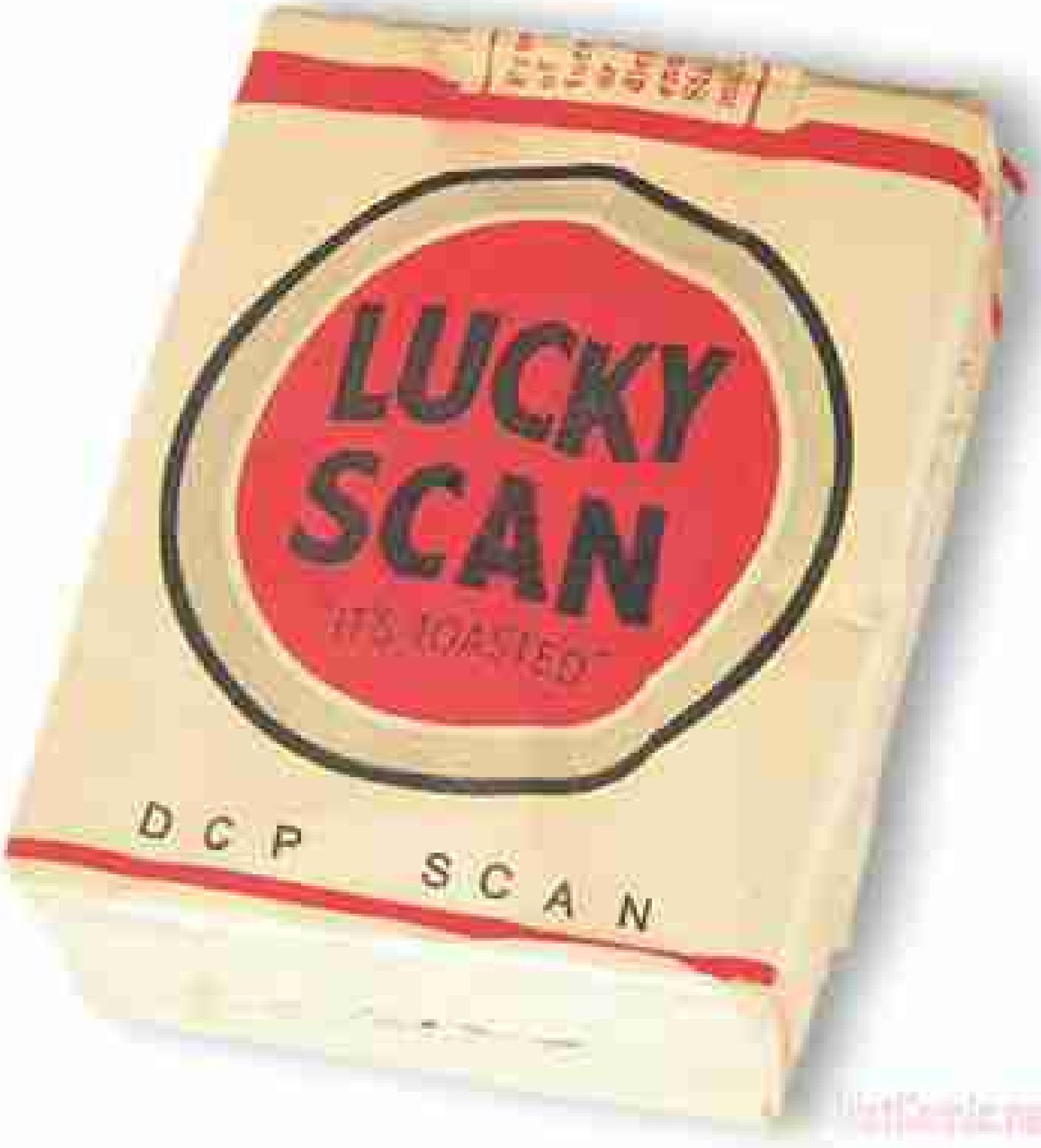
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SCAN
DCP SCAN